

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following at page 1, after the title and before line 1:

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention

Please add the following at page 1, between lines 5 and 6:

1. Related Art

Please add the following at page 1, between lines 15 and 16:

BRIEF SUMMARY

Please replace the paragraph at page 2, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

Thus an exemplary embodiment of the present invention provides a universal cipher which is capable of implementing any cipher process. The encryption which is carried out on the signal is dependent upon the respective predetermined sets of bits. The respective predetermined sets of bits are configurable without changing the data processing unit of the cipher units. This configuration is freely selectable and is preferably selected randomly or pseudo-randomly and automatically for the usual security reasons to prevent any element of predictability.

Please add the following at page 6, between lines 9 and 10:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS